

A3  
Sub B9  
8. (Amended) A method according to claim 6, wherein the axes of emboss points are varied and axes of the lamination points are fixed.

9. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the one or more selected characteristics include the percentage bond area of the emboss pattern or the percentage contact area of the point lamination pattern.

A4  
Sub B11  
11. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the one or more selected characteristics include the shape of each emboss point of the emboss pattern or each lamination point of the point lamination pattern.

A5  
Sub B13  
13. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the one or more selected characteristics include the size of each emboss point of the emboss pattern or of each lamination point of the point lamination pattern.

15. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the weight of the first material is greater than or equal to  $50 \text{ g/m}^2$ .

A6  
Sub B15  
16. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the weight of the second material is less than  $50 \text{ g/m}^2$ .

17. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising providing a thermoplastic adhesive layer between the first and second materials during the lamination process.

A7  
20. (Amended) A method according to claim 17, wherein the first material has a chemical composition which is unsuitable for bonding to the second material by heat and pressure alone.

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Sub B17

21. (Amended) A method according to claim 17, wherein the first material comprises a thermoplastic polymer and the lamination is implemented by an embossed thermobonding calender.

24. (Amended) A method according to claim 21, wherein the second material comprises a woven fabric textile material.

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25. (Amended) A method according to claim 21, further comprising selecting the lamination conditions to melt the thermoplastic adhesive layer in a single pass through the thermobonding calender and subsequently to cool the laminate to set the melted adhesive.

26. (Amended) A method according to claim 17, wherein the adhesive is one or more of an acrylic adhesive, a hot melt adhesive, a netting adhesive or a powder adhesive.

27. (Amended) A method according to claim 17, wherein the first and/or second materials comprise discontinuous fibres which are melted by the lamination process to form a film at the adhesive lamination points.

28. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising coating the first material, the second material, or the laminate with a chemical composition to impart specific properties to the laminate.

29. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the first material comprises a nonwoven spunbonded textile.

Sub B19

30. (Amended) A method according to claim 29, wherein the first material comprises a thermobonding polymer.

31. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the second material comprises a thin film.

32. (Amended) A method according to claim 31, wherein the second material comprises a thermobonding polymer.

33. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising providing a further layer between first and second materials.

34. (Amended) A method according to claim 33, wherein the further layer is a microfibre layer, a non-plastics fabric, or a continuous thin film.

35. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the lamination is effected by use of a thermobonding calender, the first material has an emboss pattern which is non-symmetrical about a line transverse to an axis of rotation of the calender, and the first material can be reversed in orientation to present an emboss pattern having different pattern characteristics to that presented when the first material is not reversed.

37. (Amended) A method according to claim 35, wherein the reversed embossed pattern is sufficiently different to the non-reversed embossed pattern to provide under the same process conditions a different pressure distribution across the laminate.

39. (Amended) An apparatus for laminating a first material having an emboss pattern formed thereon, to a second material, the apparatus comprising a lamination means for bonding said first and second materials together at discrete points, wherein the lamination means provides a point lamination pattern having one or more of its characteristics selected to be different to a corresponding one or more characteristics of the emboss pattern so as to control, during lamination, the amount of point mis-registration between the two patterns.

A10  
42. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 39, wherein the lamination means comprises an embossed thermobonding calender.

43. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 39, wherein the apparatus further comprises means for cooling the laminate after the lamination process.

44. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 39, wherein the apparatus further comprises means for treating the laminated material with a chemical composition after the lamination process.

A12  
49. (Amended) A method according to claim 46, further comprising selecting the lamination conditions to melt the thermoplastic adhesive layer in a single pass through the thermobonding calender and subsequently to cool the laminate to set the melted adhesive.

50. (Amended) A method according to claim 46, further comprising applying the adhesive layer as a coating to one of the first or second materials.

52. (Amended) A method according to claim 46, wherein the adhesive is one or more of an acrylic adhesive, a hot melt adhesive, a netting adhesive or a powder adhesive.

A13  
53. (Amended) A method according to claim 46, wherein the first and/or second materials comprise discontinuous fibres which are melted by the lamination process to form a film at the adhesive lamination points.